

# TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

## OF THE

### BOROUGH OF YEOVIL.

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GENTLEMEN,

The period has again arrived for me to present my usual Annual Report upon the health and sanitary condition of your Borough for the year ending December 31st, 1897.

Area, 700 acres; Population, 9,648 (Census, 1891), probably now 10,000, or over; Inhabited Houses (Census, 1891), 1907, also much increased during the last two years; Geology, upper and middle lias, Yeovil sands; Occupation, chiefly Glove Making, also Foundries, Breweries, and Tallow Melting.

#### GENERAL VITAL STATISTICS.

The calculation of the Death and Birth Rate has been made upon the Census of 1891.

During the year 260 Births were registered within the Borough, as compared with 256 in 1896. The Birth Rate for 1897 is 26·57 per 1,000, as compared with 26·32 per 1,000, 1896. Twenty births were illegitimate as compared with sixteen in 1896.

During the year 139 deaths occurred as compared with 178 in 1896, a decrease of 39. This gives a Death Rate of 14·49 per 1,000 population, including 14 at the ages of 75 to 85, and 3 at 85 and upwards.

It may be noticed that the births have increased and the death rate decreased.

#### RESPIRATORY DISEASES, INCLUDING PHTHISIS.

The mortality here has not reached so high a percentage as last year, being at the rate of 2·16 per 1,000 population, as against 3·7. Phthisis has caused eight deaths, the same as in 1896.

#### ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The town can still be congratulated on the low percentage of deaths from this class of diseases; a fact affording conclusive evidence of the constant attention to the detail of sanitary precautions.

#### ILLEGITIMATE BIRTH RATE.

This is slightly higher this year, being at the rate of per 1,000 population, 2·16.

## SMALL POX.

I am glad to be able to state that the town has been perfectly free from this disease during the year.

## SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

These are periodically inspected and notices served if necessary.

## BAKE-HOUSES.

These have also been inspected as usual. There are still several premises used as such which are not suitable, and will be closed when an opportunity occurs. I am pleased to say that several new ones have been erected during the year which are well designed in all respects.

## DAIRIES AND MILK-SHOPS

Are now being registered under this Act.

## TALLOW FACTORY.

These premises have been constantly under supervision, and every endeavour is made to minimize any nuisance arising therefrom.

## BOARD SCHOOLS.

These have been inspected and reported on when necessary to the Authorities.

## THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (NOTIFICATION) ACT.

This Act still remains unadopted in this town. I consider this regrettable and wrong, thereby the efforts of your M. O. H. in endeavouring to arrest any serious outbreak of epidemic are paralyzed. It is too often impossible for me to get sufficiently *early knowledge of the existence of disease* to enable me to adopt the necessary precautions to prevent its extension. As there appears to be an utter misunderstanding as to the powers conferred on the M. O. H. by this Act, I consider it not out of place to quote the following statement by the L. G. Board :—

“The Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889, when adopted confers no *new* powers upon the M. O. H. but is designed to afford him such *immediate* information of the outbreak of infectious disease as will enable him *promptly* to take such measures as are prescribed by the instructions (of the order of March 8th, 1880), and authorised by the existing law (of the Public Health Act, 1875).” This explanation, I venture to think, must remove from any reasonable person’s mind the idea (if such already exists) that any arbitrary power is conferred on the M. O. H. by its adoption. I do again strongly urge the early consideration of this important matter. I have been approached by Mr. Preston Thomas (L. G. Board Inspector for this district) on the subject, who strongly recommends that this Act be adopted in this Borough.

I can mention an incident which transpired during the past year which will show the danger incurred through the omission to adopt this Act. *Accidentally* I became aware that a case (an imported one) of “Typhoid Fever” existed in the town. The patient I found (on enquiry) had been ill some time, and some degree of reticence was observed by the family. However, late in the day, I was enabled to satisfy myself that due caution was being observed, etc., the patient luckily being one of a tradesman’s family. Had the illness occurred, say, in some cottage where the inmates would as likely as not be ignorant of the need of special caution, what in all probability would have been the result, it is not difficult to imagine.

## DISPOSAL OF SEWAGE.

After much time and deliberation *re* the Septic Tank System of dealing with the very exceptional sewage of this town, a subject which has caused so much anxious consideration of the authorities in the past, I believe the consensus of opinion arrived at by all competent to judge to be that the results of our experiments have exceeded their most sanguine expectations, and that in the near future the problem of rendering such a sewage innocuous will be solved. It must be highly satisfactory to all interested that the Government contemplate the appointment of a Royal Commission to investigate the Bacterial Treatment of sewage. I trust Yeovil will be proved to have been one of its chief pioneers by having furnished valuable evidence in support of this method of treatment.

## THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

This has again been successfully utilized in a case of Scarlet Fever which occurred in a large family. The spread of the disease was effectively prevented. I would again press upon you the necessity of providing a laundry and mortuary for use in connection with the building.

## DISINFECTING APPARATUS.

A portable one would be of great service in the event of the outbreak of any infectious disease. I would again suggest the advisability of some arrangement being made with the Board of Guardians in this matter.

## BYE-LAWS,

As approved by the Local Government Board in 1885, with additions and amendments in 1887 and 1891, are in operation.

E. C. GARLAND,

*M. O. H. Yeovil Urban District.*

*February 18th, 1898.*



## SUMMARY, 1897.

BIRTHS	{ Males ... ..	128	{ Including illegitimate }	Males ... ..	10
	{ Females ... ..	132		Females ... ..	10
		<hr/>			<hr/>
		260			20

Percentage of Births to total population in	...	...	1897—	2'65
Annual rate of Births per 1,000 population	...	...	1897—	26'57
„ „ „ „	...	...	1896—	26'32
„ „ „ „	...	...	1895—	29'23
Excess of registered Births over Deaths	...	...	1897—	121
„ „ „ „	...	...	1896—	78
„ „ „ „	...	...	1895—	110

Births as compared with 1896 are more by 4.

DEATHS	{	Males	...	...	69
	{	Females	...	...	70

139

Percentage of Deaths to total population ...	...	...	1897—	1·44
Annual rate of mortality per 1,000 population	...	...	1897—	14·49
„ „ „ „	...	...	1896—	18·4
„ „ „ „	...	...	1895—	17·83

Deaths as compared with last year show a decrease of 39.

Deaths in Union Workhouse	...	...	...	...	1897—	18
"          "          "	...	...	...	...	1896—	13
Deaths in Yeovil and District Hospital	...	...	..	1897—	6	
"          "          "          "	...	...	...	1896—	9	

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.

In children under 1 year	...	...	...	...	1897—	29
„ „ „	...	...	...	...	1896—	34
Over 1 year and under 5 years	...	...	...	...	1897—	8
„ „ „	...	...	...	...	1896—	25
Death rate per 1,000 deaths	...	...	...	...	1897—	258·13
„ „ „	...	...	...	...	1896—	331·8
Death rate per 1,000 births...	...	...	...	...	1897—	142·4
„ „ „	...	...	...	...	1896—	236·2
Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 births					1897—	111·7
„ „ „ „ „ deaths					1897—	208·88

ZYMOTIC DISEASES. Total deaths (whooping cough) 7.

Five deaths under 1 year.

Two at 1 year and under 5 years.

Percentage to total population	...	...	...	...	...	·072
Annual rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	·725

Four Inquests were held in 1897 as compared with 7 in 1896.

DEATH RATE from Respiratory Diseases, including Phthisis :

Deaths from Phthisis	...	...	...	8
„ „ Bronchitis	...	...	8	} 14
„ „ Pneumonia	...	...	6	
„ „ Pleurisy	...	...	0	
Total	...	...	...	22

Death rate per 1,000 population	..	...	...	...	...	2·16
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ILLEGITIMATE BIRTH RATE per 1,000 population .... 2'44

Birth Rate per 1,000 population.	Death Rate per 1,000 population.	INFANT MORTALITY.			
		Per 1,000 Deaths.	Per 1,000 Births.	FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASES.	
				Per 1,000 population.	Per 1,000 Deaths.
26'57	14'49	258'13	142'4	'725	50'03

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE BY THE INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES DURING  
THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1897.

1897.			Nuisances Investigated	Premises Visited.	Notices served to abate nuisance.	Parcels of Bedding disinfected.
January	...	...	8	50	2	1
February	...	...	8	60		
March ..	...	...	7	85		
April ...	...	...	5	105		
May ...	..	..	7	205	3	
June ...	....	..	7	106		
July ...	.	...	9	120		
August	...	....	8	207	2	
September	...	...	4	209	2	
October	...	...	7	395		
November	...	...	7	305		
December	...	...	6	130	2	
TOTAL..	...	..	83	2058	11	1

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

DR. GARLAND,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR THE YEAR 1897